



U.S. Department of Justice

**CHANNING D. PHILLIPS**  
*Acting United States Attorney for the  
District of Columbia*

*Judiciary Center  
555 Fourth Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20530*

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**For Information Contact:**

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(202) 514-6933

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### **Superior Court Jury Finds District Man Guilty of First Degree Murder While Armed**

**Washington, D.C.** - A Superior Court jury found Darryl Hunter, 37, of Southeast Washington, D.C., guilty today of First Degree Murder While Armed, Obstruction of Justice, Conspiracy, Armed Robbery, and related weapons offenses, in connection with the fatal shooting of Jason Dantley, 25, on December 14, 2007, announced Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips. The verdicts concluded a trial that began on September 29, 2009, before Superior Court Judge Michael Rankin, and came after the jury deliberated for about 20 hours over the course of three days. Hunter will be sentenced on January 15, 2010.

According to evidence presented at trial, on December 14, 2007, at approximately 2:00 p.m., Xerses Alexander called his friend, Jason Dantley, on the phone and asked if Mr. Dantley could come by and sell him some ecstasy pills. Mr. Dantley, who lived with his girlfriend and their two-year-old daughter in Forestville, MD, and who worked full time as a chef at a Bethesda restaurant, agreed. Mr. Dantley and his girlfriend had plans to drive out of town for the upcoming weekend; shortly before the call, his girlfriend gave Mr. Dantley \$300 in cash to use to get the tires changed on his car. After getting off the phone with Mr. Dantley, Alexander suggested to his roommate, defendant Hunter, that they rob Mr. Dantley. The defendant agreed.

At about 2:15 p.m., Mr. Dantley parked in a lot behind an apartment house located at 2320 Chester Street, SE, where the defendant and Alexander resided. Alexander greeted Mr. Dantley as he sat in his car, the two men talked, with Alexander leaning on the driver's side window of the car. After a few minutes, the defendant walked into the parking lot wearing a mask and pointing a 12-gauge shotgun at Alexander and Mr. Dantley, and announced a robbery. Mr. Dantley pleaded that he had a daughter, and then tried to drive away. As he did so, the defendant fired one shot from the shotgun through the open driver's side window of Mr. Dantley's car. Mr. Dantley was hit in the neck and killed almost instantly. The car struck the parking lot fence and came to a stop. Hunter then pulled Mr. Dantley from the car, and Mr. Alexander removed the \$300 in currency from Mr. Dantley's pockets. The defendant and Alexander returned to the apartment building, and divided up the money.

The defendant was arrested one week later, on December 21, 2007. Alexander was arrested on December 23, 2007. Alexander, who testified against Hunter at trial, has already pled guilty to homicide, conspiracy, armed robbery charges.

In announcing today's verdict, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips expressed his thanks to the Metropolitan Police Department, and in particular to MPD Detective Joshua Branson and MPD Officer Tina Ramadhan. Mr. Phillips also praised William Henderson of the U.S. Attorney's Office Litigation Technology Unit, Paralegal Sandra Lane of the U.S. Attorney's Office Homicide Section, Marcie Rinker, U.S. Attorney's Office Victim-Witness Program Specialist, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Liebman, who investigated and tried the case.

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